

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): An inkjet ink comprising at least one dye in an aqueous medium, wherein the dye satisfies a relation of  $\epsilon_1/\epsilon_2 > 1.2$  wherein  $\epsilon_1$  represents a molar extinction coefficient obtained from absorbance at the maximum wavelength of a spectral absorption curve obtained by measuring an aqueous solution of the dye having a concentration of 0.1 mmol/liter using a cell having a light pass length of 1 cm and  $\epsilon_2$  represents a molar extinction coefficient obtained from absorbance at the maximum wavelength of a spectral absorption curve obtained by measuring an aqueous solution of the dye having a concentration of 0.2 mmol/liter using a cell having a light pass length of 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

2. (original): An ink set comprising the ink as claimed in Claim 1 as at least one of constituting inks.

3. (original): The ink set as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the dye contained in the ink as claimed in Claim 1 constituting the ink set is an azo dye having a heterocyclic group.

4. (original): The ink set as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the azo dye having a heterocyclic group is an azo dye wherein two heterocyclic groups are connected by an azo bond.

5 (original): The ink set as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the dye contained in the ink as claimed in Claim 1 constituting the ink set is a metal chelate dye wherein a metal coordinated with a heterocyclic group form a nucleus.

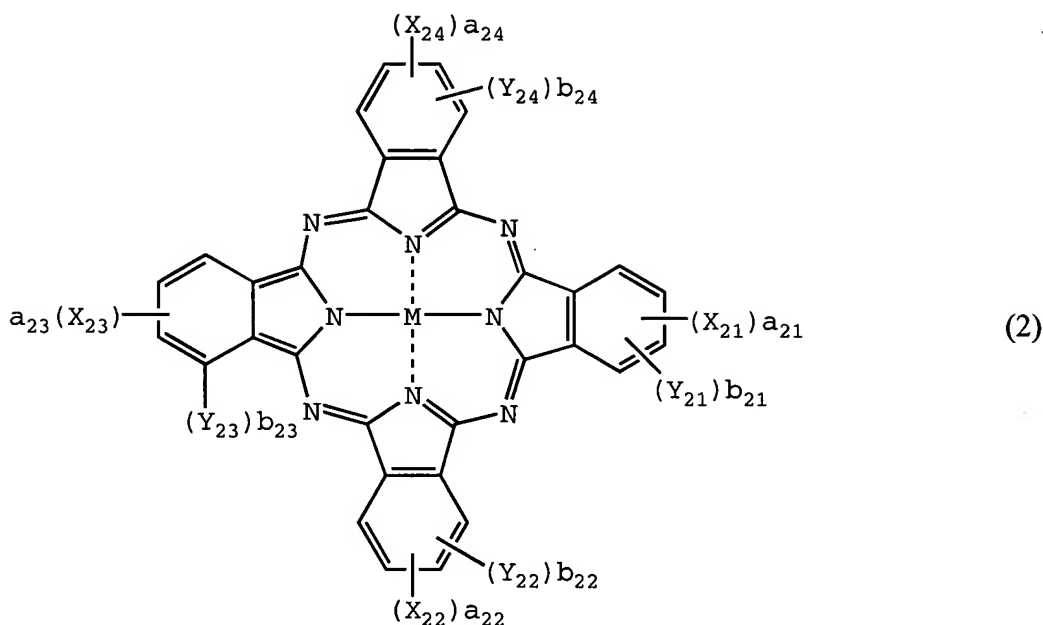
6. (original): The ink set as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the metal chelate dye wherein a metal coordinated with a heterocyclic group form a nucleus is a phthalocyanine dye.

7. (currently amended): ~~The ink set as claimed in Claim 2, which is for use in~~ A method of inkjet recording comprising ejecting an ink according to Claim 1 onto a recording material.

8. (new): The inkjet ink as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dye is represented by one of the following formulae (1) to (4):



wherein  $A_{11}$  and  $B_{11}$  each independently represents a heterocyclic group which may be substituted;



wherein  $X_{21}$ ,  $X_{22}$ ,  $X_{23}$  and  $X_{24}$  each independently represents  $-\text{SO}-Z_2$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2-Z_2$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}_{21}\text{R}_{22}$ , a sulfo group,  $-\text{CONR}_{21}\text{R}_{22}$  or  $-\text{COOR}_{21}$ ,

$Z_2$  independently represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group,

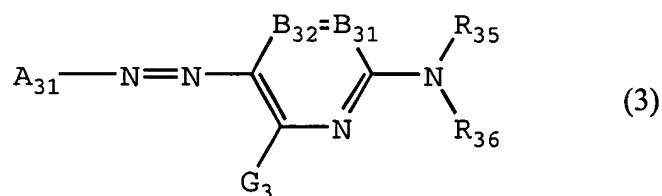
$\text{R}_{21}$  and  $\text{R}_{22}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group,

$\text{Y}_{21}$ ,  $\text{Y}_{22}$ ,  $\text{Y}_{23}$  and  $\text{Y}_{24}$  each independently represents a monovalent substituent,

$a_{21}$  to  $a_{24}$  and  $b_{21}$  to  $b_{24}$  represent the numbers of substituents  $X_{21}$ ,  $X_{22}$ ,  $X_{23}$  and  $X_{24}$  and  $\text{Y}_{21}$ ,  $\text{Y}_{22}$ ,  $\text{Y}_{23}$  and  $\text{Y}_{24}$ , respectively,  $a_{21}$  to  $a_{24}$  each independently represents an integer of from 0

to 4, provided that all of  $a_{21}$  to  $a_{24}$  are not 0 at the same time, and  $b_{21}$  to  $b_{24}$  each independently represents an integer of from 0 to 4, provided that when  $a_{21}$  to  $a_{24}$  and  $b_{21}$  to  $b_{24}$  each represents an integer of 2 or more, the plurality of  $X_{21}s$ ,  $X_{22}s$ ,  $X_{33}s$ ,  $X_{24}s$ ,  $Y_{21}s$ ,  $Y_{22}s$ ,  $Y_{23}s$  or  $Y_{24}s$  may be the same or different from each other, and

M represents a metal atom or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof;



wherein  $A_{31}$  represents a 5-membered heterocyclic group,

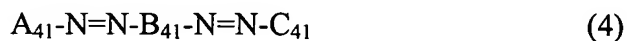
$B_{31}$  and  $B_{32}$  each represents  $=CR_{31}-$  or  $-CR_{32}=$ , or either one of  $B_{31}$  and  $B_{32}$  represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents  $=CR_{31}-$  or  $-CR_{32}=$ ,

$R_{35}$  and  $R_{36}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, and each group may further have a substituent,

$G_3$ ,  $R_{31}$  and  $R_{32}$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxycarbonyl group, an acyl group, a hydroxy group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, a silyloxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aryloxy carbonyloxy group, an amino group (including an

arylamino group and a heterocyclic amino group), an acylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, an aryloxycarbonylamino group, an alkylsulfonylamino group, an arylsulfonylamino group, a heterocyclic sulfonylamino group, a nitro group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, a heterocyclic sulfonyl group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, a heterocyclic sulfinyl group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group or a heterocyclic thio group, and each group may be further substituted, and

R<sub>31</sub> and R<sub>35</sub>, or R<sub>35</sub> and R<sub>36</sub> may be combined with each other to form a 5-membered or 6-membered ring;



wherein A<sub>41</sub>, B<sub>41</sub> and C<sub>41</sub> each independently represents an aromatic group which may be substituted or a heterocyclic group which may be substituted.